S/N 09/638,091 PATENT

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	Andres et al.	Examiner:	Daniel Previl
Serial No.:	09/638,091	Group Art Unit:	2632
Filed:	August 11, 2000	Docket No.:	13835.0010US01
Title:	Communication Protocol For Interconnected Hazardous Condition Detectors, And System Employing The Same		

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8:
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on February 24, 2003 (February 23rd was a Sunday).

By: Patricia L Larrimore
Name: Patricia L. Larrimore

RESPONSE

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action mailed on October 23, 2002. Please consider and enter the following remarks. Claims 1-20 remain pending.

In section 2 of the Office Action, claims 1-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anderson, U.S. Patent No. 5,627,515, in view of Keeler et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,384,723. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 is directed to a method of communicating multiple hazardous condition alarms between distributed hazardous condition detectors over a single signal line. Claim 1 recites steps of sensing a first hazardous condition, and generating an alarm signal on the single signal line, the alarm signal including a voltage pulse having a duration less than 100 milliseconds. It is advantageous to configure the alarm signal to include a voltage pulse having a duration less than 100 milliseconds so that an alarm signal from, for example, a carbon dioxide detector will not trigger an alarm condition in a conventional smoke alarm, but will trigger an alarm condition in intelligent smoke alarms that can issue a carbon dioxide alarm pattern. See page 11, line 6 - page 13, line 23 of the present application.